

My name is Steven Douglass. I live at 83 Hampstead Street in Methuen MA. I am a cable modem subscriber, and I give my time freely to direct a program that appears on the Newton, MA cable.

I believe the recent declaratory ruling on cable modem fees is flawed. I don't care what arbitrary way you classify cable modem service. Your potential changes won't have a negative impact on the profits of AT&T, but it will on free speech in our nation.

In the past broadcast operations were supposed to operate for the BENEFIT AND NECESSITY OF AMERICANS (NOT CORPORATE AMERICANS BUT INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS) Since the cable is likely to take over the broadcast operations at some point what have your rules changed for. WHY ARE YOU TAKING AT&T'S SIDE? BECAUSE THEY FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT?

YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN THE FACT THAT ONLY 17 % OF AMERICANS THINK IT IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO HAVE A COMPUTER!

By classifying cable modem service as an information service instead of a cable service, you will cause negative economic impact in our community, particularly on one of the best things to have been created with these cable modem franchise fees, PEG access TV.

With your decision, NewTV, and my home city's PEG access facility, will have to cut jobs and services to the community by nearly 28%.

While this may have been an unintended consequence of the FCC's ruling, I believe you must consider the impact of this ruling on PEG access facilities nationwide, who produce more original, non-repeated programming AND RESTORE THE FREE SPEECH THAT THEY PROVIDE.

THE FEDERAL COURTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT MONEY SPENT ON ELECTIONS OF CANDIDATES IS EQUAL TO FREE SPEECH. THEREFORE WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO CUT THE FUNDING FOR PEG ACCESS, YOU ARE CHOOSING TO KILL FREE SPEECH. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?

Please rescind this flawed decision, or do something to mitigate the harm to local communities, such as allowing cable modem revenues to be subject to local franchise fees, even though it may be considered an information service for other regulatory reasons."

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